



# THE COAST GUARD RESERVIST

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION • UNITED STATES COAST GUARD

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## THE ADMIRAL'S CORNER

On 31 March 1976, H.R. 12940, a bill to revise the laws relating to the Coast Guard Reserve, was introduced in Congress. The first hearings on this bill, which has been going through the clearance process for more than two years, were held on 4 May 1976 before the Coast Guard and Navigation Subcommittee of the House Merchant Marine and Fisheries Committees. I would like to tell you the main features of the bill and to do so will use the device of answering questions in a hypothetical interview with one of our Reserve officers.

Q. What is the purpose of the bill?

A. The general purpose is to improve and clarify Chapter 21, the Coast Guard Reserve Law portion of Title 14, U.S. Code, by the elimination of unnecessary, obsolete, and confusing language; to improve compatibility with language in the Regular Coast Guard portion of Title 14; and to make a relatively small number of substantive changes that would not only assist in more effectively managing the Reserve program but would also provide more equitable opportunity for the selection, promotion, and retention of our Reserve officers.

Q. Are many sections of Chapter 21 affected?

A. All 44 sections are affected--3 would be repealed as no longer necessary; editorial or non-substantive changes would be made to 35

sections; and substantive changes would be made to 6 sections.

Q. Would you cite an example of confusing language currently in Chapter 21?

A. Section 774 contains the statement "... officers retained in an active status and excluded from promotion by the provisions of section 787 of this title ..." But when you go to section 787 to see which officers are excluded from promotion, there are none. Discrepancies such as this would be corrected by the bill.

Q. What sections are being repealed?

A. Three sections are in this category. Section 761 deals with rights of an employee of the Federal Government to join the Reserve, to be paid, to be granted military leave with pay, etc. It is not needed in Title 14 since Title 5 (Sections 502, 3551, 5534, and 6323) adequately provides the same benefits and protection to all reservists. Section 779 states that there shall be no requirement for sea or foreign service for the promotion of Reserve officers. There is no similar section applicable to Regular Coast Guard officers. It would be eliminated as an unnecessary, negative requirement. The third section to be repealed is section 785. That section currently makes a Reserve officer ineligible for promotion unless he has attained the minimum number of

points prescribed by the Secretary. Prior to 18 September 1970, we did require a minimum number of points as a condition of eligibility. On that date, however, "best qualified" promotion legislation was enacted for the Coast Guard Reserve and a points requirement was no longer prescribed. This section would, therefore, be repealed as unnecessary.

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### OFFICER IN CHARGE RESERVE BOSDET

Coast Guard Reservist LORENZO FERNANDEZ was recently promoted to Chief Port Securityman and was assigned by Reserve Group Commander JEROME L. GRILL, as Officer in Charge of the Reserve Boating Safety Detachment at Reserve Group Sandy Hook.

As Officer in Charge, the Chief coordinates the Reserve Boating Safety operations with those of the Coast Guard regulars. The Sandy Hook Reserve BOSDET team, was established as a pilot program to help educate the public in both safety and legal requirements of recreational boating. The team performs patrols along the coast and on inland waters under Coast Guard jurisdiction.



Chief Port Securityman Lorenzo Fernandez, Officer in Charge of the Reserve Boating Safety Detachment at Reserve Group Sandy Hook, NJ.



Q. Have any new promotion eligibility requirements been added?

A. Yes. In Section 774 we've added the requirement that a Reserve officer must have "performed the minimum training prescribed by the Secretary" in order to be eligible for selection and promotion. This is a prospective rather than an immediate requirement. We want the authority at some later time to require certain courses or training if we consider it to be desirable. For example, we may later require attendance at a senior officers course, such as one offered by the Naval War College, as a requirement for eligibility for selection to RADM.

Q. What is the major change in the bill?

A. There are two of these. First, the bill would remove CAPTs from an active status upon completion of 30 years total commissioned service. I consider this desirable and necessary for several reasons. There is an identical provision for Regular Coast Guard officers and furthermore, with some few categories of officers excepted, all other Reserve Components have similar provisions. This would result in a somewhat reduced reliance on continuation boards. We hold one of these boards each year for CAPTs in order to start the promotion flow. Removal at the 30 year point is more impersonal than removal by continuation board action. Furthermore, an important management advantage results from being able to plan for the replacement of a senior Reserve officer with advance knowledge of the termination date of that officer. There are some cost-savings that would result from removing CAPTs from an active status at the 30 year point since all points now accrued after that time would contribute to increased retired pay. Finally, the 30 year provision would, in my opinion, be a strong signal to our junior officers that we are modifying our officer promotion system to provide for a full career pattern generally consistent with the Regular Service and with a termination date that affords no special concessions to our more senior officers. The other major change is the reduction in tenure for Reserve RADMs from five to four years. This provision roughly equates with the Regular Service in that Regular RADMs must face a continuation board at a point where they have completed not less than four nor more than five years in grade. I consider five years too long and three years too short for a Reserve RADM to do an effective job in the Reserve program. A four-year tenure is just about right and, based on past experience, would ensure promotion to rear

admiral (upper half) prior to termination. This reduction would provide our Reserve CAPTs with two opportunities for selection every four years instead of two every five years as is now the case.

Q. What are the other substantive changes?

A. I have already mentioned the minimum training requirement which is intended for future use. Another change would eliminate from consideration for promotion those officers who are not recommended for retention by a continuation board. The 20 year Coast Guard or Coast Guard Reserve service requirement which is currently a condition of eligibility for selection for RADM would be eliminated. The authority of the Secretary to establish equitable promotion opportunities among successive groups of officers would be strengthened. The authority for the Secretary to retain officers twice failing of selection would be limited to the period prescribed by the Secretary. Active duty of a limited or temporary nature would be added to an existing section which protects Reserve officers from being placed on the active duty promotion list. Finally, 30 June would be established as the date of removal from an active status of officers twice failing of selection and not otherwise retained, for CAPTs being removed after 30 years total commissioned service, and for officers not retained as the result of continuation board action.

Q. Why were hearings held before a House Merchant Marine and Fisheries Subcommittee -- why not a House Armed Services Subcommittee?


A. This is a matter of jurisdiction in Congress. We have no choice in selecting the Committee that will hold hearings. H.R. 12940 amends Title 14 U.S. Code. Therefore, under Congressional rules it goes to the House Merchant Marine and Fisheries Committee and to the Senate Commerce Committee. All Coast Guard bills that amend Title 14 are handled in this manner.

Q. Are enlisted personnel affected by these changes?

A. No, Chapter 21 primarily concerns Coast Guard Reserve officers. I would like to again state, however, that many of our officers come from the enlisted ranks. The door is always open for qualified enlisted personnel to become officers through the direct commission program. So this discussion may be of some interest to those of our enlisted personnel who may eventually become officers.

Q. Is there anything else you would like to say about the bill, Admiral?

A. Yes. There has been no major change in Chapter 21 since 1970 when the Reserve "best qualified" legislation was enacted. The entire Chapter 21 has needed a thorough revision and these changes will accomplish a great deal in improving and clarifying the language. The bill will generally improve our officer promotion system. There are only two groups of officers who might be considered as being adversely affected. They are the 15 Reserve CAPTs in an active status who have completed 30 or more years service and our 2 Reserve RADMs who are in an active status. These CAPTs would be removed from an active status on 30 June following enactment of H.R. 12940 into law. The RADMs would be removed upon completion of four years' service in grade. I can understand the disappointment of some of these officers who have spent a very considerable portion of their life engaged in Coast Guard Reserve activities at the thought of being removed from an active status. It happens to all of us eventually. However, all of these CAPTs face possible removal by continuation board action each year they remain in an active status as well as certain removal at age 60 which will be reached by all within the next 2 to 5 years. I hope that they will accept the 30 year termination provision as a healthy improvement to our promotion system. Additionally, I hope that these officers and all of our Reserve officers will continue to actively participate in Coast Guard affairs following retirement through organizations such as the Reserve Officers Association. The same thought applies to our enlisted personnel who can continue to participate through the Coast Guard Chief Petty Officers Association, Coast Guard Enlisted Association, the Non-Commissioned Officers Association, Naval Enlisted Reserve Association, and others.

  
W. S. SCHWOB

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#### KEEP THOSE CARDS AND LETTERS COMING!

THE RESERVIST welcomes articles and pictures from all reservists. If you have an item of interest about a Reserve unit, a reservist, or a noteworthy incident concerning the Coast Guard Reserve, send it to:

Editor, Coast Guard RESERVIST  
U. S. Coast Guard (G-R-1/81)  
Washington, D. C. 20590



# CGRU AGANA Gains Operations Officer

Guam's newly formed Coast Guard Reserve unit gained an operations officer recently when Senator Roy P. DUENAS of the 13th Guam Legislature was commissioned as an Ensign in the Coast Guard Reserve.

RADM James W. MOREAU, USCG, Fourteenth Coast Guard District Commander and former Chief, Office of Reserve, administered the oath of acceptance to Senator-Ensign DUENAS. CDR Jerome DENNEHY, USCGR and LT Robert HAHN, USCGR, commanding and executive officer, respectively, of the Agana (Guam) unit, were also present.

Senator DUENAS is a graduate of the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy, King's Point (NY) and has served as third and second mate on board U.S. merchant ships. He will coordinate the activities of Reserve personnel at the local Marine Safety Office.

CGRU Agana, which now numbers 18 (3 officers and 15 enlisted personnel), is primarily a Port Security Unit. Reserve personnel augment the Captain of the Port and the Marine Safety Office.



From left to right are: LT HAHN, CDR DENNEHY, ENS DUENAS, and RADM MOREAU.

## RESERVISTS MAN SAR STATIONS

This summer, reservists will again be manning and operating four Coast Guard SAR Stations. Three Great Lakes SAR Stations, Plum Island, Harbor Beach and Manistee will be operational by mid-June. Atlantic Beach Station, N.Y. will be operational by mid-May.

The Great Lakes SAR Stations will be manned by a total of 85 reservists, 79 of whom are from the Ninth District. Their tours will vary from two weeks to four months, with the average duration being forty days. Six of the

reservists are newly enlisted RK's who attended recruit training last summer and are completing their split initial active duty for training this summer.

Atlantic Beach Station will be operated by 18 reservists and 4 regulars. Most of the reservists are from CGRU Atlantic Beach Station or from within the Third District.

Plum Island and Harbor Beach will remain open until mid-September. Manistee and Atlantic Beach will close in October.

## ESTIMATE YOUR RETIREMENT POINTS

Want to estimate what your Reserve Retirement Pay will be? Here's how.

Divide your total Retirement Points (or the total points you estimate you will have) by 360; multiply the result by .025; then multiply that result by the basic pay for your grade at the appropriate longevity step. The formula looks like this:

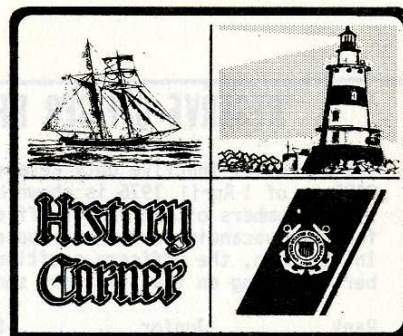
$$\frac{\text{Retirement Points}}{360} \times (.025) \times \text{Basic Pay} = \text{RETIREMENT PAY (monthly)}$$

The result will be an approximation since your Retirement Pay will be based on the basic pay rate which is in effect on the date you have fulfilled all requirements to receive Retirement Pay (normally your 60th birthday.)

Here is an example based on the 1 October, 1975 pay scale:

A. B. SEE enlisted in 1956, served on active duty for four years and transferred to the Reserve. He earned 75 points per year while in the Reserve and is retiring on 15 June 1976 as a BMC with 20 years service for pay purposes. He accumulated 2,511 points. His Retirement Pay at age 60, based on the current pay scale, will be:

$$\frac{2,511}{360} \times (.025) \times (\$878.40) = \$153.17 \text{ per month}$$



On the eve of D-Day, the Coast Guard rescue crafts were positioned among more than a hundred attack transports and landing craft. The attack began before dawn and it soon became apparent that German guns were working havoc on the small landing draft, spilling their occupants into the icy waters. The small CG craft made run after run as close as 2000 yards from the German guns and in dangerously heavy surf.

Many of the survivors were suffering from shock due to the shells and the bitter cold. Since the assault craft had the right-of-way, the Matchbox cutters had to dodge skillfully around the landing vessels. Many unconscious men were pulled out of the water and revived on deck with artificial respiration. One CG cutter saw several crippled boats loaded with essential supplies and personnel, and towed them into the beach.

Besides rescues, the cutters provided valuable services. The British steamer FORT PICK was hit by a bomb and set afire amidships. Panic broke loose among the troops and crewmen. It was only the presence of a CG cutter encouraging the crew by megaphone that returned order to the scene. A British officer on board, later said that the Coast Guardsmen had "shown great courage" and were "deserving of high praise".

The accomplishments of the CG cutters of Flotilla One go beyond the Normandie Invasion. For months afterwards, they were plucking survivors of sinkings and air crashes out of the Channel. The service of the cutters did not go unrecognized. Typical was the type of letter received by one of the commanding officers of a CG cutter. From the British Admiralty, it stated: "I am commanded by My Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to inform you that they have learned with great pleasure that on the advice of the First Lord, the King has been graciously pleased to award you the Distinguished Service Cross for gallantry and devotion to duty shown when in command of USCGC No. 35 in the initial landings of Allied Forces on the Coast of Normandie on 6 June 1944."



## RESERVE OFFICER PROMOTION STATUS

The status of inactive duty Reserve officer promotions to LT through CAPT as of 1 April 1976 is shown below. Listed are the names and signal numbers of the junior officers on the latest selection lists for whom vacancies exist and whose running mates have been promoted. In addition, the officers position on the selection list and the number remaining on that list are shown.

Rank	Junior Reached	Signal Number	Position On List	Number Left
CAPT	Harry W. BISCHOFF	152	14	3
CDR	Philip L. ADAIR	749	99	0
LCDR	Charles O. LAUGHARY Jr.	1545	90	76
LT	Richard T. NICHOLLS	3144	220	25

## RECRUITING

As of the end of April 1976, the following districts exceeded or maintained their authorized Selected Reserve Strength:

SEVENTH DISTRICT

EIGHTH DISTRICT

NINTH DISTRICT

TWELFTH DISTRICT

FOURTEENTH DISTRICT

## PIPING ABOARD



U.S. Coast Guard Reserve Training Center, Forest Park, Illinois, has gained its' first female Boatswain's Mate. BM3 Kay BURBACK (See photo) is piping aboard the U.S. Coast Guard inspection team from Cleveland, Ohio. BM3 BURBACK made permanent Third Class Boatswain's Mate on 1 January 1976 after working two long years to lateral from Third Class Yeoman.

## Achievement Medal

In a ceremony held on 28 February 1976, LT WAYNE F. GREEN, USCGR, Operations Officer of the Coast Guard Reserve Unit in Greensboro, was awarded the Coast Guard Achievement Medal. The award was presented by LCDR R.E. WATERS, Commanding Officer, in recognition of Green's exemplary work in coordinating the operations of the Unit's six widely separated boating safety teams on the lakes of North Carolina.

## SWINE FLU VACCINE MANDATORY

By July 1976, the Swine Flu vaccine will be made available to the Coast Guard. The Swine Flu vaccine is mandatory for all reservists on ADT, IADT, and all reservists in a drilling status. If the vaccine is not available at the Reserve unit, commanding officers should contact district personnel (medical) to arrange for inoculations for unit members. Refer to ALDIST 106/76 of 10 May 76.

## Coast Guard Reservist

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ADMIRAL O.W. SILER  
Commandant, U.S. Coast Guard

RADM W.S. SCHWOB  
Chief, Office of Reserve

ENS. J.R. OLIVER  
Editor

All photographs are official Coast Guard material unless otherwise designated.

Members of the Coast Guard Reserve are invited to submit articles of interest to the Editor of RESERVIST for possible publication.

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